

the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:2 with C at position 278 ;  
the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:2 with G at position 647;  
the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:2 with C at position 707;  
the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:2 with C at position 748;  
the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:2 with A at position 829;  
the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:2 with C at position 1467;  
or a complementary strand thereof comprising at least one polymorphism or a fragment  
thereof of at least 20 bases comprising at least one polymorphism.--

Amend claims 6 and 7 as follows:

--6. (Amended) An allele specific primer that specifically detects a VCAM-1 gene polymorphism at one or more of positions 278, 647, 707, 748, 829, and 1467 in the VCAM-1 gene as defined by the positions in SEQ ID NO:2.

7. (Amended) An allele-specific oligonucleotide probe that specifically detects a VCAM-1 gene polymorphism at one or more of positions 278, 647, 707, 748, 829, and 1467 in the VCAM-1 gene as defined by the positions in SEQ ID NO:2.--